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The Cincinnati Medical Association (CMA) was founded in 192 time when black health care professionals in the Cincinnati are necessary to establish their own professional society because segregated health care system of that epoch.

MISSION

The mission of the Cincinnati Medical Association is to support delivery of quality medical care to the traditionally underserved of the Greater Cincinnati Community, to serve as advocate for underrepresented populations of the Tri-State Region, and to the professional practice of minority physicians.

ACTIVITIES

In addition to providing a forum in the Cincinnati area where m physicians can tackle the ever-evolving health issues affecting medical profession and the health care system, the CMA, a ch NMA (National Medical Association):

- Offers Continuing Medical Education to its members;
- Organizes, on a regular basis, professional and social ga for its members;
- Mentors minority medical students, interns and residents sponsors some of their projects;
- Provides financial support to area organizations believe the vision of the CMA;
- Organizes or sponsors community events (such as health seminars, workshops, health fairs, etc);
- ~~Has on 1230 AM (WDBZ) a weekly radio show, 'To Your that comes on Sunday from 10:00AM to 11:00 AM~~

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CMA History, Dr. Chester Pryor and Dr. George Hale
Speech given on January 16, 2000

- Dr. Chester Pryor -

Welcome Colleagues, Guests and especially our Spouses,

We are going to attempt to give you a capsule form of the history of Negroes, African Americans or blacks in Cincinnati.

The first Negro to practice medicine in Cincinnati was around 1870. His name was L. F. Buckner who practiced from 1870 to 1907, at the time of his death. He was extremely respected among the majority of physicians because of several of the cures that he was able to accomplish. His hobby was music and he was the first Negro to play the great pipe organ at Music Hall. He did not attend medical school but he had worked for white physicians, taking care of their patients in the hospital and they taught him medicine, prior to him beginning to practice. In 1880 came a Dr. Tate, who was a very dedicated physician and he volunteered to treat yellow fever, which was rising in Tennessee and died in that process. Around 1890, a Dr. Frank Johnson was the first physician who graduated from a medical school, Columbus Medical School in Columbus, Ohio. He practiced for a short time and entered politics here in Cincinnati. He was elected the Assistant City Paymaster and served there for five years. He opened a small hospital which failed because of business ability, but he was also instrumental in assisting others in forming hospitals. For those who are not aware, Negroes were not allowed in a hospital at that time. He also was a trustee of the Crawford Old Men's Home, which I believe is part of now, the Lincoln Crawford Home and he was a trustee at Wilberforce University.

The first Black woman to practice in Ohio was around the same time Cansarella Clark. She did not stay very long because her husband relocated in the Northern Part of her state. There was a Dr. Callory and several others who came to Cincinnati around the same time and he was noted because he too opened a hospital but failed because of lack of administrative ability, as well.

Between 1900 and 1930 there were several physicians who came to Cincinnati to practice, but there was nothing particularly lasting in terms of their civic contribution. Around 1930 and it would be good for you who are not familiar with Cincinnati to find the book on "Cincinnati Colored Citizens" to get some concept of the environment that was common place in Cincinnati at that time. -1 he -Ohio Book Store, you know, specializes in reproductions of interesting historical documents and I apologize that I could not find my copy to give you the real flavor at this time. But needless to say, they were totally ignored within the professional community.

Between 1930 and 35 entered Dr. Ray E. Clarke; Dr. B. F. Cann; Dr. Breedlove; Dr. Walker; Dr. Gladden; Dr. Miller Berry and his wife were also physicians; Dr. John Leeland, Sr.; and Dr. McClain. Dr. Clarke and Dr. Cann, Sr. were really the great pioneers of the time in terms of their diligence and perseverance in the face of totally being unwelcomed. They had to practice in the hospital downtown and also at the Evangelist and Booth Hospitals, down on 6th street, but they, persisted on going over to The University Hospital to the Clinic and they had to look over this not being recognized for their professional skills. Around that same time, Dr. Ken Jones was first to pass the City Examination to be a City Physician and Dr. Robert Brown, a very kind gentleman, followed that at that time, as well.

The 1940s were actually the time that the Evangelist Hospital closed and Catherine Booth opened its doors and at that time it was on Beecher Street. Some more physicians came to Cincinnati, Dr. Richardson and Dr. Lemmon, Dr. Fletcher came at that time. They were superb physicians in terms of their clinical skill and knowledge for their time. Dr. Clarke had his residency in General Surgery and only operated at St. Mary's Hospital and the Catherine Booth hospital in the 30s. Dr. Cann was the family physician and also those two were the first Negroes to be admitted to a private hospital staff, which was The Jewish Hospital. Dr. Clarke had privileges in General Surgery and Dr. Cann had privileges in Family Medicine and OB. Dr. Clarke was also certified in OB. Dr. Clarke said at one time and I assume that this still stands, of being successful in delivering a 35 pound abdominal fibroid or tumor. None of the physicians had been able to accomplish that feat. Neither one

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were Board Certified, but had full privileges without censor, that is, they did not have to assign their patients to another physician if they had to be admitted.

The 1950s brought forth physicians who were well trained, that is they not only had finished Medical School but also had finished Residency. In the 1940s, Dr. Luther Lemon and in the 50s came Dr. Ed Casey, Dr. Paul Hough, Dr. Samples, Dr. Darden, Dr. Clinton Buford, and Dr. Cecil Fascet, to name most of them. They became important for several reasons. Dr. Buford was the first African American to limit his practice to General Surgery. In spite of Dr. Clarke's skill and respect, he actually mostly was doing Family Practice. Dr. Ed Casey, along about the same time arrived and his sub-specialty was Chest Medicine. Shortly after that, Dr. A. H. Clint also General Surgeon and he were in the practice with Dr. Clinton Buford. The first Negro to be allowed to be trained in Cincinnati that is an Internship in Cincinnati was Dr. Chester Pearless. It was about 1950. Chester Pearless was the first black to be an intern at The University Hospital and he was the first African American to have Residency training and he was trained in Psychiatry. In 1952, A. H. Clement, M.D. came and was the second black to be allowed to have Internship in Cincinnati at The University of Cincinnati but they refused to give him a Residency and he did his General Surgery Residency at Miami Valley Hospital, which was nearby.

Needless to say, these two superb surgeons certainly on the platform that Dr. Clarke had marked were successful, very skillful surgeons. The third African American to be allowed to have an Internship in Cincinnati was myself in 1955 at The Jewish Hospital, the first time an African American had been allowed to intern at a private hospital in this city. Because of that, Dr. Hale was the second and Dr. Cantos was the third. We will get into Dr. Hale a little bit later. Dr. Clarice Reed, I believe is the first African American to be allowed to have a Residency in Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the second was Marilyn Gaston. As you know both of those are in Washington, DC high in the administrative office of public health and have been there for almost two decades. The outstanding contribution in terms was whether the patient was black or white, that was 1956, and he said that he would not ask them again for any blood from anybody,

The fall came also shortly there in the early 60s, with Dr. Hale in front of Dr. C. O. Dillard and me and we met various difficulties. The outstanding thing that we had about 9 or 10 active physicians in The Cincinnati Medical Association and we hosted the National Medical Convention, I believe in 1965. It was after that convention that our wives were allowed to join the Auxiliary of the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine. My personal experience with the Academy was when I applied, I should back up and say, to get on staff at the hospital, and you had to be a member of the Academy of Medicine. I applied and the executive secretary at that time proceeded to chat with me at length, but I was a little slow to catch on and he was concerned when I said that I was Board Certified. So, he asked me that there was more than one part to the board and I said, "Yes." I told him, "I'll tell you what, if you look in the directory of the American Board of Ophthalmology in North Carolina, you will find my name." It was 1961 that this type of overtness occurred.

I was not allowed to attend the Cincinnati Ophthalmological Society Dinner. I think that I was allowed to come after the dinner to hear the guest speaker starting around 1964. These are all overt acts, which were just yesterday, so to speak.

Dr. Clarke, I single him out because he and Dr. Cann took the insult to look over the medical student's shoulders because they loved their patients and because they I think in some degree were hoping to help also those patient's at The University Hospital as well.

Dr. Clarke belonged to several civic organizations, totaling about 15 and he was on the board of 4, one of which was the Boy Scouts. He was on the board of the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority for some 30 years of which he was the chairman of 27 of those 30 years. He was also on the board of the Red Cross. He was a charter member of the Cincinnati Medical Association and he was also the charter member of the Green County Gun Club, his hobby was shooting clay pigeons. It is those two and finally both of them were admitted as instructors at The University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and on the voluntary staff of the hospital due to their perseverance.

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He received around 1985 the award of Excellence from The University of Cincinnati College of Medicine at its Commencement, which is a rare honor that is bestowed sometimes by the board of trustees, for his long years of service.

It is of interest that these men are great giants in service because African American physicians not only have to practice but they also have to work in the community. Dr. Lynn was noted notorious for his diagnostic ability. Dr. Casey a great person, he not only was excellent in Chest Medicine but he was also president of The National Medical Association causing them to own a 1.5 million dollar building for its headquarters. He was the General Chairman when The National Medical Convention was here in 1965 and there, he was the first African American to be President of the Academy of Medicine. He and C. Buford, those were the two men, who persevered habitually with the Dean and The University of Cincinnati in general, but mostly the College Dean to allow African Americans to become students at The University of Cincinnati. The first black to graduate from The University of Cincinnati was around 1940 and that was Lucy Oxford, I bet they thought that she was foreign, but she was not, she was an African American who practiced here in Cincinnati. In fact, she is the first African American woman to really sustain a successful practice here in Cincinnati.

But, it was Dr. Clinton Buford and Dr. Ed Casey who continued to hammer with the Dean's Office. Because of that, the professional community was not fair to Dr. Buford. Finally, the Academy of Medicine around 1968 had decided that African Americans could hold an office and then to do that, to show their commitments, there were two slates and so that year it was for the Treasureship.

The only way to get an African American elected was to run an African American against an African American for the same office. I had been in practice for about 8 years and Clinton Buford had been in practice for about 15 years. They elected me instead of him, but the point is that the medical students are being trained here in Cincinnati because of the tremendous fortitude of their cases and Clinton Buford.

Concurrently, on the other side, in terms of the respect of Dr. Clarke and Dr. Cann we must not forget that each was a great surgeon and also a great salesman for fairness throughout the medical community. We must not forget C. O. Dillard, "Chucky" as some of us call him. It was Chucky's idea to have an Evanston Medical Clinic; it was Charles O. Dillard.

I forgot one other thing too, which is very important, along with Drs. Clarke, Breedlove and Cann in 1930 or 1933, Charles O. Dillard's father came, Dr. C. E. Dillard who was the 4th or 6th black to ever be trained in Radiology in the United States, but he was never allowed to practice Radiology.

Chucky established that it was his dream and you might have read in the papers, that it was his dream to reach out to underprivileged countries and Africa and he goes at risk in terms of disease and so forth. The point that I am trying to make that the physician, the delivery of care has really no focus, because as we said early on. I think that it was Johnson who really made his mark in terms of the delivery of care through politics. If you are not educated, you do not understand how not to get sick and ended up on the board of trustees

You need to be willing to bow to foolishness and sometime not even find out what you need to know, If you are not willing to look at things as they are to know that they are not right, do not fight, but be a friend to make it possible, that is was Dr. Cann and Dr. Clarke were noted for.

My wife, volunteered at The University of Cincinnati Hospital for a short time and not out of maliciousness and not out of absolute sincerity one of the ladies became so close to her that she wanted to know if my ancestors were black? This was in 1960s. So, we are a peace loving ethnic group and we try to do what is right.

The second African American, the fourth Intern in Cincinnati, the first to be a resident in Cincinnati, the first to have a sub-specialty training in Cincinnati, Dr. George Carl Hale, Sr., Endocrinology at University of Cincinnati.

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If you really choose to give, you give to those who cannot give back to you. I just happened to be there when Dr. Hale was the second African American to be President of the AOM and I was there when the third, Dr. Joseph Hackworth. Joe admitted, I never knew anything about what he dealt with but apparently there was some tough sledding. For Joe apparently when he started Cardiology, his main support was George C. Hale. At that installation, he thanked George and gave him a plaque. I do not know how many other people that George has helped but medicine is all about how you give care.....George.....

- Dr. George Hale -

I hope not to make this too long, it is great evening, you are manicured and contoured and you want to dance and drink rather than hearing speeches.

Dr. Taylor asked me to speak from the 60s in my hopes and dreams for the future of African Americans in medicine in Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Medical Association some 40 years later, I think back.

In 1963 I returned to Cincinnati after a stint in the United State Air force. From 1955-1960 I served an Externship, Internship, Residence in IM and a Fellowship in Endocrinology Metabolism at The Jewish Hospital and The University of Cincinnati Hospital. My hopes and dreams were tempered by my realism. I hope for the following things, an open hospital staff for African Americans; a marked increase in the number of African Americans in private practice; African Americans in private practice in every one of the major specialties; more African American students accepted and matriculated at The University of Cincinnati Medical School. That the CMA become larger, more effective, more influential, a source of strength and support for its members and leaders in the medical community. Lastly, that individual African Americans become leaders professionally and organizationally in the medical community of Cincinnati.

Allow me to be historical, in 1964 there were less than 25 African American MDs in private practice, 10 of us on staff at Bethesda, 6 at Jewish and 2 at Christ, namely, Casey and I were on staff at Christ. Later there were 2 at Children's Marilyn Gaston and Clarice Reed. Dr Reed was first. At that time I had the dubious distinction of being the only African American physician, staff, at Jewish, Christ, Bethesda, and St. Marys. There were less than 5 African American Medical Students and no more than 2 in Residency at The University of Cincinnati. The 40 year old in CMA and African Americans in medicine in this town have been bumpy, there have been many diversions, losses of directions, detours, stops and starts with a host of players along the way.

In the 60s the CMA was instrumental in starting the first African American Black Faculty Organization at The University of Cincinnati. After many meetings with the President of The University of Cincinnati and the Dean, we persevered in getting a summer program started for first year medical students. At that time, many of our students were failing because of lack of training, knowledge in math and sciences. In addition to that program, before the first year of medical school we had another program whereby students in African American colleges who were graduates who applied to and wanted to come to The University of Cincinnati Medical School and were accepted, if they needed additional training in the sciences, The University of Cincinnati would pay for one year of college at a majority university. A number of students took advantage of that particular program. Dr. Taylor earlier mentioned, during those years we had mentors who were assigned to a medical student, if that student wanted a mentor. As mentors we would only interfere or do what the student wanted from inviting the student to dinner, taking the student to a football game, basketball game and in some instances, helping the student in a time of need.

One year, my mentor came to me, needing money to go to Columbia University to be able to go to summer school so that he could return to The University of Cincinnati Medical School in September. I graciously gave him that money to go to school.

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As a result of those efforts during those times, The University of Cincinnati had the largest number of African Americans in Medical School, of any Medical School in the state of Ohio, including Ohio State and obviously Case Western. Additionally we feel that we were instrumental in getting The University of Cincinnati to name the first African American Dean in the name of Walter Lovell, M.D. We would like to think of these efforts, along with many others, obviously increased the residency pool and subsequently more African American MDs in private practice here in Cincinnati.

The CMA has played many roles in many situations involving students, residents and private practitioners over the years. Its range of involvement spans all the way of a situation some years ago when an African American male student was accused of a bank robbery in Coreville to just last year donating in the 4 figures to a student who needed financial assistance immediately and acutely.

Camille Graham, Clyde Henderson and Tom Shockley led a concerted and successful effort against Anthem to reinstate and open other plans to minorities. As a result of these efforts, other plans have let many of us in. There are too many examples to mention others in which the CMA has assisted many of us in private practice, organizational problems, teaching and staff problems, and even state medical licensure situations. We have reached my dreams in the number of African American physicians in private practice, in every specialty and we had every specialty except allergy and we had every specialty until recently when Melvin D. Whitfield, M.D. left Neurosurgery. As far as leaders presently, Joe Hackworth is president of Bethesda, Brad Jackson is President of Children's Hospital Medical Staff, Alvin Crawford, Chief of Orthopedic Pediatric Surgery, Alvin Nelson has been recently named as Chairman of the OB Department at Christ Hospital, Roosevelt Walker is Chairman of OB/GYN Department at Mt. Airy Franciscan Hospital, Leon Reid, Chairman of Ophthalmology at The Deaconess Hospital, Louis Sardano, Chairman of Maternal/Fetal Health at Tri Health, Dr. Garcia in Trauma Surgery Pediatrics, Ken Davis, Trauma Surgery at UC H, Associate Dean and the Dean's Office, Walter Bowers, Chairman of the higher minority Health. I am certain that I have missed some, but I apologize.

We have come a long way baby and we have a long way to go. The play is the same but the script is different. Insurance Companies, managed care, hospital conglomerates, reduction of health care professional, it's the length of the chain instead of the spoke in the wheel. What disturbs me most is that the medical professional is considered expendable.

Many of my hopes and dreams of 40 years have been fulfilled, many have not. What are your hopes and dreams?

This reminds me of the man who is walking down the road with a boy on his back, another fella passes and says "That boy sure is heavy!". "No, he ain't heavy, he's my brother".

Keep the Faith, fight and struggle, but definitely you have to get on board for the cyber train of the 21st Century is pulling out.